

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Moon-Randolph Homestead
other name/site #: Moon Homestead/ Randolph Ranch

2. Location

street & number: 1515 Spurlock Road **not for publication:** N/A
city/town: Missoula **vicinity:** N/A
state: Montana **code:** MT **county:** Missoula **code:** 063 **zip code:** 59802

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____ entered in the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ determined eligible for the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ removed from the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ other (explain)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	1	building(s)
6		Sites
5	1	Structures
1		Objects
23	2	Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Function:
Living History Farm/ Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: vernacular

MATERIALS:

foundation: concrete

walls: wood; metal

roof: wood; metal

other:

Narrative Description:

Summary

The Moon Randolph Homestead lies north of the City of Missoula in an area known as the North Hills, where steep grassy hillsides overlook the city (see attached documentation). The land is generally open, with tree cover limited to ravines where sufficient water accumulates seasonally to allow growth of native plum, box elder, and other trees and shrubs. Cultural resources on site include the original claim cabin, main house, barn, milk house, chicken house and goat shed, root cellar, coal mine, winch shed, and harness shed; a variety of small-scale features including fences, gates, corrals and loading docks, and storage sheds; developed sites, including a garden site, an orchard, and three alfalfa fields; and circulation systems, including primary and secondary access roads. Development of this land base is most clearly understood within the context of a cultural landscape as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, *Bulletin 30*. Individual cultural landscape characteristics reflected on site, and standing as character-defining features, are detailed below.

Land Uses and Activities

As defined by the National Register, land use constitutes the major human force shaping any natural landscape and may include farming, ranching, recreation, commerce, and industry. From initial settlement through the end of the historic period, the Randolph Ranch was a small-scale mixed-use agricultural operation. Today this mixed use remains evident in an orchard, three fenced alfalfa fields, and the broader expanse of arid ridgeline that forms the middle-distance view from the building cluster, land historically used as pasture. See continuation page, Section 7.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Agriculture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1889-1945

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ray Moon; Will Randolph; Bill Randolph

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Moon-Randolph Homestead is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level of significance, for its association with broad patterns in Missoula Valley settlement and agricultural history. The period of significance extends from initial settlement in 1889 until 1945 when property development and land use deviated from local patterns. Contributing resources include not only the historic-era buildings, but also areas of distinct land use including orchard, garden site, planted field, and graze lands.

The Randolphs operated the ranch as a small-scale, mixed-use property with a variety of crops providing not only horizontal integration beneficial in a local market but also those items demanded by a growing family: dairy, produce, pork, beef, eggs, and – through an on-site coal mine – fuel. This subsistence pattern is today displayed not only in the variety of outbuildings (chicken house and goat shed; milk house; cattle and horse barn; root cellar; winch shed), but also in the creative reuse of materials. Car parts, shovels, and bed frames are incorporated in fence systems. Much of the farm machinery appears to be handmade (often based -- historic drawings found in Bill Randolph's estate suggest -- on original design.) Without exception, each building is constructed of myriad materials in a sequence of additions constructed in response to changing needs, as money and time proved available. In a cash-poor economy on a marginal claim, all that was reusable was reused. The property today stands as an accurate representation of historic regional farm patterns and also as an anachronism, unaffected by the changes that swept Montana agriculture in the 1950s and 1960s by virtue of Bill Randolph's committed tenure at the site (precluding early sale), and also by his bachelor status: there were no heirs to upgrade, modify, and otherwise bring the land into profitable use in a changing economy.

Narrative History

In 1862 Congress passed the Homestead Act, a land act quickly hailed by supporters as "one of the most beneficent and vital reforms ever attempted in any age or clime – a reform calculated to diminish sensibly the number of paupers and idlers and increase the proportion of working, independent, self-subsisting farmers in the land evermore."¹ The act was as quickly denounced by detractors as "bring[ing] in upon us a vile horde of the most worthless class of emigrants."² This controversial and seminal legislation promised 160 acres of public land to those heads of families, 21-years of age and older ("Young Men! Poor Men! Widows!"), who were, or who intended to become, US citizens. Within six months of paying their \$10 filing fee, settlers were required to live on the land. Thenceforth, they were required to inhabit the site for at least seven months of every year. After a minimum of five years of seasonal habitation, and a maximum of seven, and upon proof of cultivation, the United States of America conveyed legal title to the homesteader.³ **See continuation page, Section 8.**

¹ Horace Greeley quoted in Roy M. Robbins, *Our Landed Heritage. The Public Domain 1776-1936* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1962), p. 206.

² Cyrus Woodman quoted in Paul Gates, *History of Public Land Law Development* (Washington, D.C.: Zenger Publishing Company [for the Public Land Law Review Commission], 1968), p. 392 fn.

³ Gates, *History of Public Land Law Development*, p. 394.

Moon-Randolph Homestead
Name of Property

Missoula County, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Primary and Secondary Sources

Archival Collections

Randolph Collection, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula, Montana.

See continuation page, Section 9

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. ☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ Other State agency

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ Federal agency

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ Local government

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ University

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ Other -- Specify Repository: Moon-Randolph Homestead, Missoula, Montana

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 414

UTM References: See continuation page, Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

SW4 of Section 10, Township 13N Range19W; 5 acres in the SESE ¼ of Section 9 T13N R19W; the NW ¼ of Section 15 T13N R19W; 89 acres in the SW ¼ Section 15 T13N R19W. See attached site map.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries conform to the legal limits of land owned and used by the Randolph family during the period of significance, together known as the Randolph Ranch.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ann Emmons/historian (2000); Updated by Sara Scott Adamson/ architectural historian (2007)

organization: North Missoula Community Development Corporation/ City of Missoula

date: June 2000; March 2007

street & number: 819 Stoddard

telephone: 406 829-0873

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

zip code: 59802

Additional Documentation

See attached continuation sheets, current-condition photographs; historic photographs; and site maps.

Property Owner

name/title: City of Missoula (Moon-Randolph Homestead is managed by North Missoula Community Development Corporation, in cooperation with the City of Missoula)

street & number: 435 Ryman

telephone: 406 552-6001

city or town: Missoula

state: MT **zip code:** 59802

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Narrative Description, continued

Wheat/ Alfalfa Fields, including Garden Site (4 contributing sites)

Orchards (2 contributing sites)

Beginning soon after acquisition of the site (and possibly in continuation of planting patterns initiated by Moon), the Randolph family planted alfalfa on the shallow slope extending up from the orchard and building cluster, incorporating approximately 10 acres: this 10 acres marked the extent of land flat enough to accommodate a horse-drawn plow and may have been located down slope from a spring that would have allowed irrigation. Alfalfa fields are currently marked only by historic perimeter fencing. A secondary fence parallels the gully, dividing the two contiguous fields and (presumably) allowing livestock to be turned to graze on one field, while the other was being cultivated or harvested. In addition, by 1910, the flat open bench just west and upslope from the homestead house had been planted, first in wheat and then alfalfa. This wheat/alfalfa field (converted ca. 1945 to a garden) remains clearly identifiable, both by virtue of the perimeter fence and also the flat topography that defines the historic plow zone. At the bottom of the primary orchard, the fenced historic garden site is still identifiable, and has been replanted. These historic fields and garden site (4) have each been classified as contributing sites.

The primary orchard, planted on the gentle slope near the barn and corrals, adjacent to the well, contains over 40 mature apple, sour cherry, pear, and crab apple trees. (A Missoula County horticulturalist identified the apple varieties as Duchess, McIntosh, and Yellow Transparent. Shirley Verworn remembers that Winesap were also grown). Voids in the distinct linear planting pattern suggest that approximately 65% percent of the trees are extant. (Ray Moon noted the planting of 75 fruit trees in his 1894 patent entry.) A second orchard was located at the south end of the draw, near a spring. The Randolphs removed this orchard at an unknown date, and only one tree is extant. This tree, however, functions fully as a place marker and both orchards (2) have been classified as contributing sites. The larger orchard is being pruned and replanted as part of site reconstruction, using historic planting patterns and fruit varieties. Yields have increased significantly since 2000.

Patterns of Spatial Arrangements

Patterns of spatial organization refer to the relationships among major physical components and natural features. At the Moon-Randolph Homestead, the 160-acres of the original homestead are confined to a large bowl-shaped ravine and ridgeline within Missoula's North Hills, largely protected from wind and marked by a seasonally wet, intermittently spring-fed stream that allows growth of a shelter belt composed of both volunteer and introduced vegetation. (Randolph family members remember running water in this gully every spring and into the summer. This hydrology has been altered considerably since the historic period, possibly by the drilling of wells in the heavily developed adjacent Rattlesnake Valley or by seismic activity.) Arid and unirrigable grazing land, largely acquired subsequent to the original homestead claim, extends beyond the confines of the bowl-shaped ravine. Beyond the immediate boundaries of the historic site, this proximity to an urban center and to an interstate rail line was central to the historic development of the site.

Clusters

These acres can be divided into three distinct areas of land use: the building cluster; intensively cultivated lands; and outlying lands. Demarcation of these three areas is largely defined by topography and the availability of water, with buildings concentrated within the low-lying depression at the bottom of the ravine, within the umbrella of the shelter belt. Intensively cultivated lands are concentrated proximate to the building cluster, facilitating access and in reflection of proximity to a spring and the developed wells. Together, these two intensively developed clusters represent approximately 18 acres of the 414-acre ranch. Outlying lands are relatively steep, rocky, and arid, historically valuable only as range lands. Here development is largely limited to perimeter fencing. See attached site map.

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The building cluster can be further divided into three components: the barn yard, physically though not visually isolated from the remaining buildings by the gully, expanse of corral, and the orchard; a domestic cluster composed of the original homestead and root cellar; and a tightly spaced group of outbuildings including the harness shed, the cabin/storage shed, milk house, well, and small miscellaneous sheds. See attached site map.

At a smaller scale, patterns of spatial arrangement include the orientation of the chicken house to the south and the connection between the barn yard and pasture, as defined by fence lines and drive lanes.

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Soil profiles for the property reveal a predominance of Bigarm Gravelly loams on slopes from 15 percent to 30 percent. Typical inclusions for this classification include clayey soils. Land capability is generally not suited to the mechanized production of commonly grown field crops and there is a hazard of water erosion due to slope. Surface soil tends to be droughty and cobbly with depth to water classified as deep.⁴

Historically, native prairie bunch grasses included bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and rough fescue. By 2001, the entire property was infested with spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, hound's tongue and (to a lesser degree) dalmation toadflax. In 1997, the county weed board estimated that these heavy infestations limit livestock carrying capacity to 20 to 30 percent of potential use.⁵ Since 2001, a sheep grazing and hand-pulling weed program has largely controlled weeds, and only small patches of infestation remain. Sufficient moisture occurs seasonally in the ravine at the center of the building site to support a heavy growth of cottonwood, box elder, and native plum. The plums are native to the region, rare and probably were dropped here by native people traveling the high trail in the North Hills.⁶ Within this gully, only the orchard is known to be a deliberate planting of non-native species. The black locust, however, is an introduced species and might have been planted. Given the extreme limits to natural flow in the intermittent gully, the cottonwood and box elder that dominate the shelter belt are also presumed to have been introduced to the site. The orchard undergrowth is smooth brome grass and native snowberry.

As throughout the low-lying valleys of Missoula County, the Randolph Ranch received an average of 13 inches of precipitation a year, much of this falling as snow or as rain during the perennially wet months of May and June. Cultivation of fruits and vegetables demanded irrigation. Except in years of marked drought, the naturally occurring precipitation would have proved adequate for grain and alfalfa hay; yields, however, would be dramatically enhanced by irrigation.⁷

Ornamentals are currently limited to several clusters of lilacs, currant, and box elder planted near the second-generation house/remodeled chicken coop. Additional exotic food plantings include a thriving rhubarb patch. These plantings in sum contribute to the significance of the agricultural landscape, yet, as small-scale features, have not been included in the resource count.

Boundary Demarcations

Boundary demarcations delineate areas of ownership and land use. They also separate smaller areas having special functions, such as an enclosed corral. Interstate 90, cutting across the site's south boundary and fully delineating the distinction between Missoula's urban/industrial Northside and the largely undeveloped North Hills, stands as the most powerful constructed boundary. Within the limits of historic land ownership, the Randolph property is currently perimeter

⁴ AR Appraisal, "North Hills Appraisal," 199_, p. 40. Copy on file at North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

⁵ Cited in "North Hills Appraisal," p. 67.

⁶ Personal communication, John Pierce to Philip Maechling, 2006.

⁷ State Engineer's Office, Water Resources Survey. Missoula County, Montana, Part I: History of Land and Water Use on Irrigated Areas (Helena: State Engineer's Office, 1960), pp. 11-12.

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fenced (modern metal post and wire) with a modern cross fence running east and west along the quarter section line of Section 15. Within the developed building cluster, historic fences define the orchard; garden site; alfalfa fields located contiguous to the orchard and containing the original orchard site; a small forage yard adjacent to the chicken and goat shed; and the barn/corral system (see attached site map).

Small-Scale Elements

Fences (1 contributing structure)

Constructed of a wide assortment of materials and recycled objects, fences and associated gates (see boundary demarcations, above) contribute to the significance of the site. Post materials include an occasional shovel, car chassis, railroad tie, or rooted tree trunk. Gates are ingeniously constructed of head- and foot-boards from brass and iron beds. These recycled materials reflect both American society before the advent of the “disposable age” and also the paucity of cash for material. Although most so during the Depression years when “cash was a very scarce item,” subsistence farming in general proved a cash-poor endeavor: you ate what you grew; you used what you had. At the Moon-Randolph Homestead, numerous small-scale resources reflect this economic imperative.

Machinery (1 contributing object)

Additional small-scale elements include a substantial scatter of abandoned farm machinery within the vicinity of the orchard and harness shed. This machinery has been catalogued and most of it conclusively identified as to function and age. It includes wagons, a grain binder, plows, cultivators, and harrows. It has been included within the resource classification as one contributing object. Machinery dating to the historic period (including a plow and harrow) has been displayed and interpreted or, when possible, reused as part of living history demonstrations.

Buildings and Structures

Buildings on site include a barn, winch shed, storage shed, harness shed, claim cabin, milk house, main house, root cellar, 1946 residence, and chicken house/goat shed. Of these buildings, all but the 1946 residence contribute to the historic significance of the site. Structures include a corral, coal mine, fences, wells, and irrigation system. The corral, coal mine, fences, and wells have been evaluated as contributing structures. The irrigation system retains little physical integrity and is non-contributing. Without exception, these buildings and structures are constructed of a wide range of materials, much of it apparently recycled, in an indistinct style.

Randolph family members report that all buildings, save the 1946 residence and barn additions, date to Moon's 18-year tenure at the site, 1889-1907. The buildings would certainly have been modified, repaired, and reconstructed by the Randolph family.

Winch Shed and Coal Mine (1 contributing building; 1 contributing structure)

As befits its function, the winch shed is constructed over the adit of the historic subterranean coal mine, at a raised site above the gully that funnels the access road. The flat bench of the building site affords a narrow view of the Missoula Valley, periscoped through the gully. The mine has not been surveyed and no data is available regarding its length, depth, or productivity. The winch and track remain in place. The winch shed is a simple one-story building of post-and-pole construction, sided with horizontal shiplap boards. Interior tin ceiling panels cover the shallow gable roof. Eaves are open and rafter ends are exposed.

Shed (1 contributing building)

Often described as the “tin shed,” this building appears to have been used for general storage. It is a simple one-story, wood-frame building sided with a mixture of flat and unadorned tin panels and unlapped vertical planks. There are no windows. The west end of the building incorporates a two-seater outhouse.

Barn (1 contributing building)

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The large barn is composed of three separate structures: a central gambrel roof component and two shed-roof additions, one on the west elevation of the central component and a larger addition on the east elevation. The east-elevation addition was reportedly constructed by Randolph as the first of three chicken coops associated with the Randolph Ranch. The function and date of construction of the west-elevation addition is not known. The original gambrel component contained horse and cattle stalls, as well as a hay loft. All three components are largely sided with vertical shiplap siding, in a range of sizes (from 5 inch to 10 inch). Some siding is clearly salvage wood from box cars. Metal sheets cover the roof. Fenestration includes a series of hay doors at the upper level of the central component and large sliding doors on metal tracks (salvaged box car doors) at the ground level. Extant windows are multiple-light fixed and sliding sash, in a variety of glazing patterns. Preventive maintenance and stabilization, including the removal of a large store of hay in the central component of the barn, was carried out in spring of 2007.

Corral System (1 contributing structure)

Two contiguous rectangular corrals define the large barnyard that extends from the south elevation of the barn to the orchard. Loading chutes are located at the extreme southwest corner and at the southern intersection of the two corrals. Rough milled 8 inch by 2 inch boards with exposed bark form the loading chute gates. A stock drive lane extends the length of the south side of the westernmost corral and is defined by modern metal post-and-barbed wire fence and a mismatched collection of posts and milled lumber. Corral fence is constructed of railroad tie posts and poles, with branch and slat dancers. Plywood sheets provide protection from prevailing winds.

Hog Sheds (2 contributing buildings)

Despite their small size and dilapidated condition, these two, low lean-to sheds, constructed of recycled wood and roofed with tin slabs, have been classified as contributing buildings. Hogs once foraged the orchard, gleaned windfall fruit. These sheds are believed to be associated with that historic use and therefore contribute to our understanding of subsistence- and mixed-agriculture patterns. Additional hog sheds, no longer extant, followed the west fenceline at the orchard.

Milk House (1 contributing building)

The Randolph archival collection includes undated specifications for construction of a sanitary and efficient milkhouse. Such a building would be conveniently located between the house and barn, near a water source, would feature a raised foundation (providing insulation and also supporting the heavy concrete floor), and would be too small to encourage storage of potentially unsanitary tools. This building conforms in setting, in size, and in foundation style to those specifications, although the Moons or Randolphs foreswore the recommended masonry construction in favor of wood frame.

A massive concrete foundation, supporting a heavy concrete floor fit with a drain system distinguishes the milk house from surrounding sheds. The concrete pad extends to the north of the shed, surrounding the 1907 well. The concrete is dated 1923 and is inscribed with Keith Randolph's initials. Tin panels cover the shed roof and tongue-and-groove and vertical shiplap siding cover the exterior walls; this siding retains railroad company stencils and is thought to have been recycled from a railroad boxcar, most likely of the Northern Pacific. Fenestration includes two screened windows flanking a screened door. The ordered symmetry of this fenestration pattern stands in contrast to the other agricultural buildings on site.

Moon Claim Cabin (1 contributing building)

On April 7, 1889, Ray Moon established residence at the homestead site. By June 21, when Moon filed his homestead application, they had built a "frame house" and had about one acre plowed and fenced. The 1894 "Homestead Proof" document lists the only residence as a twelve by twenty-four foot frame house. The only structure at the homestead with these approximate dimensions is this shed-roofed building at the center of the homestead cluster. The

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gable roof main house has several components, but none of these come close to matching the description given by Moon in 1894.

This evidence suggests that the Moons built this structure as a semi-temporary shelter while they “staked their claim” on the quarter section.

It is reported to have been inhabited by William Randolph's brother Elmer and his mother, Cynthia, from 1909 until 1917 and is referred to by the Randolph family as "the cabin." Newspapers, mostly dated 1908 and 1909, still cover the interior walls. One newspaper, dated 1892, is printed with Ray Moon's address. The building is of simple post-and-pole construction, with a rectangular footprint. Horizontal shiplap siding covers the exterior walls. Fenestration is limited to a wood-panel door and two windows in the south elevation.

In 2003 the cabin was rehabilitated. The structure was given a new, concrete, Sonotube foundation. The walls were dismantled, rebuilt using 2" x 4"s sheathed with plywood, and reclad with the original siding on the exterior, and salvage lumber to match the original on the interior. The floors of the building were replaced, and a new, cedar shingle roof installed.

Main House (1 contributing building)

The main homestead house is composed of a central front-gable component with secondary components (construction dates unknown) to the west and east elevations. An enclosed lean-to porch on the south wall of the original component provides sheltered entry. The east elevation component appears to have been constructed in two parts, one covered with a side-gable roof and apparently original to the building (as indicated by siding and fenestration components), and the second protected by a shed roof. The west shed-roof elevation component, housing the kitchen and dining area, also appears to have been constructed in two parts. The first runs the length of the west wall of the original component. The second is of bank construction, extending beyond the southwest corner of the original component, into the hillside. It is currently supported by a concrete retaining wall at the south end. Slope failure undermined the foundation and stability of the kitchen addition. Rehabilitation work on the building in spring 2007 stabilized the west wall of the original component, repaired roof leaks, and braced unstable roof sections.

Rustic drop-lap siding, once painted red, covers the walls of the front- and side-gable components. Multiple layers of wood shingles and tin sheeting cover the gable roofs. Windows are largely consistent in their glazing and sash patterns (predominantly one-over-one double hung arranged in pairs) and ordered and predictable in their placement. Non-original windows appear to be limited to a small structural bay window constructed in the north wall, during the historic period.

All additions are sided with the mix of horizontal and vertical plank siding typical of the larger complex. Windows within the addition include single and multiple light, in fixed and sliding sash. Doors include a glazed and paneled door providing primary access to the central component, a four-panel door within the north wall of the west-elevation addition, and a vertical plank side-hinged door providing access to the south half of the east-elevation component.

Outhouse (1 contributing building)

The outhouse, set near the homestead house, is thought to have been constructed prior to the 1946 remodel of the chicken coop and the subsequent abandonment of the main house. It is of simple gable-roof design, sided with horizontal shiplap and roofed with tin sheeting.

Root Cellar (1 contributing building)

Randolph neighbors report that the root cellar was reinforced in 1975, when poured concrete was added to the interior walls to prevent erosion of the bank. The root cellar is set in the bank immediately west of the homestead house. The roof is supported by 4"-6" diameter unpeeled poles tightly spaced and resting on a log frame constructed of larger 8"-10" logs. Storage bins flank a central aisle on either side of the entry. Drylaid and uncoursed cobble stone retaining walls

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further support the hillside to the north and south of the door. This door is set in a poured concrete frame and is constructed of vertical planks sheathed in metal and secured to the frame with strap hinges.

1946 Residence (1 noncontributing building)

This building, used as a residence from the 1930s on and substantially remodeled in 1946 and 2004/ 2005, might have originally been a chicken house. It is recognizable as a chicken house only in the shed-roof design of the central component. This component is currently flanked by shed-roof additions that extend beyond the east and west side walls of the original to create a roughly U-shaped building footprint. Save for a wood-frame section within the east elevation addition, the additions are constructed of cinder-block, and since 2004/2005 are clad in board and batten, and corrugated metal. The original component is sided with board and battens. Standing seam metal covers all roof surfaces. Roof features include wide eaves (most notably on the shed roof of the original component) and exposed rafters. Windows and doors were replaced in the 2004/2005 remodel, and are double paned, wood, three-over-one, double hung; or nine-light fixed.

The building was considered non-contributing before the 2004/2005 remodel.

Chicken House and Goat Shed (1 contributing building)

In both its shed-roof design, taking advantage of the southern exposure, and its placement near the alfalfa fields, where the hens could forage, the building conforms to typical chicken house design. Bill Randolph kept goats in the last decades of his life. In company with the other buildings on site, the chicken house is sided with both horizontal dropped siding and vertical shiplap siding. Tin panels cover the shed roof. Fenestration includes a series of screened window openings, in various sizes and shuttered window openings, all set near the ground. Window types and placement patterns are similar to those found on the barn. Egg-laying drawers remain on the interior shelves.

The chicken house is surrounded by a fence that creates a small holding pen. The fence is constructed of a mixture of slat fence and vertical boards secured to railroad tie posts.

Stabilization work is planned for the summer of 2007. Work will include removing the trees on the backside of the building, replacing a rotting purlin, repairing the roof, and replacing or rebuilding the window sashes and door frames. The building now houses chickens and goats.

Harness Shed (1 contributing building)

The harness shed is a one-story post-and-pole building composed of two distinct structural components: a fully enclosed harness shed at the east end and an open wood shed, of more recent vintage, at the west end. Tack associated with draft-horse operation remains in place. A combination of vertical tongue and groove, shiplap, tin, and plywood sheets cover the walls. The shiplap siding retains red railroad stencils, suggesting boxcar salvage (as also seen on the Milk House and Barn). Tin sheets cover the shed roof. Windows include wood-frame, multiple-light fixed-sash windows on what is now the interior wall of the west component.

Irrigation System, ca. 1900-ca. 1980 (1 non-contributing structure)

Historically, the garden and orchard were irrigated with water pumped from the coal mine, from the developed well near the barn (dug by Moon ca. 1889), or the well near the milk house, developed by Randolph ca. 1907. By the late 1930s when the coal mine was abandoned, water pumped from the mine was also used for irrigation. In later years, and possibly historically, this water was transported via raised pipe. Remnants of pipe run from the mine entrance south, under the access road, and up the slope to the original homestead house and past that to the high, flat field where first alfalfa and later a garden was planted. The orchard was presumably irrigated from the old well by the barn, which ultimately went dry (possibly, family members report, as a result of changes in the water table initiated by extensive development of the adjacent Rattlesnake Valley). At this point, insufficient material is extant to accurately reconstruct the course of the

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historic irrigation system. The system has been evaluated as a noncontributing structure. This classification may change as field inventory and site reconstruction progress.

Wells, ca. 1889 and 1907 (2 contributing structures)

The original well, marked by a stone-lined and rock filled circular depression at the high point between the barn and orchard, provided water for both irrigation and domestic use. In 1907, Randolph dug a second well roughly at the center of the tightly spaced cluster of outbuildings that contains the milk house, cabin, and harness shed. This well is currently boarded over as a safety precaution. The fact that the wells have been filled does not lessen their contribution as place markers and indicators of the importance of water to the operation. Both wells have been defined as contributing structures.

Integrity

To a remarkable degree, this site has not been substantially modified since the end of the period of significance. The historic scope and scale of agricultural activities is conveyed through a collection of buildings, structures, and areas of distinct land use. Modern intrusions completed in response to changing agricultural practice or habitation patterns are minimal. Moreover, integrity of setting has been largely protected by the paucity of development on the North Hills, where the steepness of the slope, the barrier of Interstate 90, and, recently, city ownership, have precluded development of residential neighborhoods out of keeping with the traditional agricultural use. The site, however, is not unmodified:

Construction of Interstate 90 in the mid 1960s effectively segregated the Randolph Ranch from neighboring commercial and residential areas. Although this segregation to a degree mimics that imposed by the Northern Pacific tracks, these tracks historically were fit with a number of at-grade crossings and were a less marked barrier than the interstate. Construction of the interstate therefore adversely affects integrity of setting and association. However, those views of the city afforded from the homestead building cluster generally exclude the interstate, displaying instead both the clear land-use distinction between the densely developed Westside and Northside neighborhoods and the agricultural homestead and also displaying the geographic proximity of the two distinct areas.

Building deterioration and invasion of non-native vegetation once constituted the most adverse affects to physical and associative integrity, but progress has been made on both fronts. A program of sheep grazing has largely controlled non-native vegetation. And, in 2002 a grant from the National Trust funded a prioritized plan for the stabilization of the ranch structures, prepared by Jason Lonski, which is being used to guide repairs to the structures. The location of alfalfa fields, as distinguished from garden plots, as distinguished from range land, is currently conveyed only through fence lines and through the reminiscences of former site tenants rather than through perceptible transitions in plow zones and plant composition. The orchard, where sufficient trees remain to convey the extent and the linear characteristic of the original planting, is an exception, as is the historic garden plot that has been replanted at the base of the orchard. In 1997, land appraisers reported that the noxious weed invasion had reduced the livestock carrying capacity of the range to 20 to 30 percent of historic capacity. In that condition, it was difficult to conceive of earning a living from this land and thus difficult to effectively convey a sense of historic use, but current efforts to control noxious weeds are succeeding, as are efforts to convey the historic use of the property, including replanting the garden plot, and introducing livestock such as chickens and goats.

Building condition (as distinct from physical integrity) similarly threatens the site's integrity of association and feeling. Despite the remarkable integrity of material and design (few buildings have been structurally modified since the period of significance), the current state of collapse and decomposition masks the order and productivity shown in historic photographs; these photographs show a homestead that, while never prosperous, proved able to sustain two generations. The planned, prioritized stabilization work, per the Lonski report, will prevent further threats to the integrity of the condition of the site.

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The Lonski report of 2002, which included only the larger buildings on the property, and not the small sheds and structures such as the corral system, concluded that the Moon claim cabin, barn, chicken house/ goat shed, main house, milk house, outhouse, root cellar, and harness shed can be stabilized. The report recommended that the winch shed be substantially rebuilt, preserving as much original material as possible.

Restoration of historic plant composition is in progress via an innovative program of adaptive reuse and living-history exhibits. The orchard is being maintained, trees pruned and new trees grafted; the chicken house has been restocked; and the garden at the base of the orchard replanted to provide food for the resident caretaker. The restoration of the native prairie grasses, exotic crested-wheat grass, and other species that historically defined range lands is being realized through livestock grazing and city efforts directed at the entire North Hills/Mount Jumbo region. Future stabilization plans for the Moon-Randolph Homestead include a cooperative partnership with the Native Plant Society designed to restore plant communities on the slopes within and surrounding the historic district. The more immediately attainable goal of restoration of the more-intensively cultivated lands (hay fields; gardens; orchard) is reintroducing the historic land-use demarcations between these close-in land-use areas and the outlying range.

Non-extant historic structures are known to have included a historic granary, representative of the winter-feed operation, and an ice house. Loss of the granary to fire in 1945 and loss of the ice house (date unknown) adversely affect the associative integrity of the property. In addition, the 1946 residence, a building that is thought to have been once a chicken-coop and that was converted to a residence in the mid 1930s (although there is no record of substantial exterior modification associated with this change in use) was substantially modified in 1946 and again in 2004/2005 to create a caretaker's residence. The 1946 alterations post-date the period of significance assigned the site. Therefore, prior to the 2004/2005 alterations, the building was considered noncontributing.

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Resource Summary

Resource	Contributing/Noncontributing
Wheat/alfalfa fields (including garden site)	4 Contributing Sites
Orchards	2 Contributing Sites
Coal Mine	1 Contributing Structure
Winch Shed	1 Contributing Building
Shed ("Tin Shed")	1 Contributing Building
Barn	1 Contributing Building
Corral System	1 Contributing Structure
Hog Sheds	2 Contributing Building
Milk House	1 Contributing Building
Moon Claim Cabin	1 Contributing Building
Main House	1 Contributing Building
Outhouse	1 Contributing Building
Root Cellar	1 Contributing Building
1946 Residence	1 Noncontributing Building
Chicken House and Goat Shed	1 Contributing Building
Harness Shed	1 Contributing Building
Irrigation System	1 Noncontributing Structure
Wells	2 Contributing Structures
Machinery	1 Contributing Object
Fences	1 Contributing Structure

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Narrative History, continued

Men of both vile and generous temperament, from the American midwest, the eastern seaboard, and from northern Europe, drawn primarily by mineral strikes along Grasshopper Creek, Gold Creek, and Clark Fork River tributaries, constituted the first "emigrant horde" to invade Montana Territory. Recognizing wealth in timber and in agricultural supply of mining communities, these men filed claim not only to mineral strikes but also to the public domain.

Within western Montana, the growth of support communities and the arrival of stage roads and railroads, most notably the Mullan Trail (1860) and the transcontinental Northern Pacific (1883), introduced both a dependable means of importing and exporting goods and also the "advantages of society." Homestead and Timber Act applications to land in the forested or irrigable western valleys located within rough access to a rail and road network increased accordingly.⁸

On these claims, diversified small-scale agriculture proved typical from this initial homestead settlement through the 1930s. Owners or tenants of these diversified farms "used so much land for hay, so much for grain, so much for pasture, wood supply, garden, orchard, bunch of cattle, flock of sheep, hogs, chickens, geese and ducks making a dollar or two in everything."⁹ A standard farm in the lower Clark Fork Valley in the 1910s consisted of

160 acres; land is all level; an ideal place for raising cattle and alfalfa, 20 acres cleared, ten acres seeded in hay; nice young orchard, big log cabin . . . barn [with] room for hay overhead; one team; one No. 1 sleigh; 15 chickens; one hog and all kinds of small tools and all household to go with the place.¹⁰

In 1937, the Montana Extension Service continued to classify most Clark Fork Valley farms as unirrigated "general."¹¹ State-wide Depression-era population patterns influenced this continuity of use. Beginning with the drought and agricultural depression of the 1920s and continuing through the world-wide depression of the 1930s, Montanans moved from the dry-land areas east of the mountains to the irrigated or irrigable western valleys and moved from outlying villages and hamlets to county seats and larger centers. "The farmer of western Montana," would "in large part [escape] the problems of the eastern section" where drought and full collapse of commodities prices on one-crop non-subsistence holdings devastated entire communities.¹²

By the 1950s, agriculture in Missoula County and neighboring Sanders County generally took the form of a stock ranch with irrigated land to produce hay and other feed, a large unirrigated dryland farm dedicated to wheat, barley, or alfalfa, or a moderate-sized irrigated farm. Small-scale farms meeting the bulk of a family's subsistence needs proved increasingly rare.

Initial settlement and historic-period development of the Moon-Randolph Homestead would largely conform to these general trends. On June 22, 1889, Ray F. Moon filed a homestead claim to 160 acres in Missoula's North Hills, for the express purpose of settlement and agricultural development. Located within the SW4 of Section 10, Township 13N Range 19W, the claim was a mere two miles from the Northern Pacific's transcontinental rail line and from Missoula's nascent Westside and Northside communities, communities that would provide both neighbors and a ready and accessible market for any meat, dairy goods, and produce that Moon's land might produce. This was a homestead of the late frontier, demanding hard work and ultimately producing no great wealth, subject to the vagaries of market and weather, but spared the chilling isolation of pioneer settlement.

⁸ K. Ross Toole, *Montana. An Uncommon Land* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959, pp. 64-94; 139-166.

⁹ Mona Leeson Vanek, *Behind These Mountains, Volume I: People of the Shining Mountains Where the Clark's Fork River Churns* (Statesman-Examiner, Inc. Printers, Colville, Washington), p. 75.

¹⁰ Quoted in Vanek, *Behind These Mountains, Volume I*, p. 173.

¹¹ Montana Extension Service, *Planning an Agricultural Program*. Montana Extension Service with Montana State College and the USDA, 1937), pp. 31, 32.

¹² Federal Writers' Project, *Work Projects Administration, The WPA Guide to 1930s Montana*. Tucson & London: University of Arizona Press, 1994 (first printed 1939), p. 6.

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As a small agricultural holding immediately adjacent to an urban center the Moon Homestead was representative of larger Missoula Valley settlement patterns. Similar claims existed in the Grant Creek, Butler Creek, and Rattlesnake valleys as well as along Clark Fork River irrigable bottom lands.¹³ (Successful claims to immediately adjacent lands on the dry North Hills proved more rare. A number of homestead and claims were relinquished and Timber Act claims to the forested draws represented a short-term land use. Odd numbered sections paralleling the railroad were included within the Northern Pacific federal land grant and were sold by the Northern Pacific Improvement Company in the years following receipt of title from the federal government (1896).¹⁴ The bulk of the land was used historically as undeveloped range or pasture.

Upon filing his claim, and in accordance with the requirements of the Homestead Act, Moon would plant an orchard; cultivate alfalfa fields; and construct a homestead house, barn, and additional miscellaneous outbuildings. On July 2, 1894, five years after initial settlement, Moon received certificate of patent from the United States government.¹⁵ The land would be dispersed soon thereafter, first in 1907 when the west 80 acres (containing the building improvements) were sold to William H. and Emma Randolph for \$1900 and concluding in 1912 when the Randolphs purchased the east 80 acres.¹⁶ They acquired additional land over the years, including 5 acres in the SE ¼ of Section 9 T13N R19W, the NW ¼ of Section 15, and 89 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 15. By 1942, the family farm would total 414 acres.

On this property, Will and Emma would raise their three children, Keith, Robert, and William (Bill). The boys considered themselves members of the Missoula community, sledding on the North Hills with their urban neighbors and walking two miles to Whittier School and, later, the five miles to Missoula County High School. In 1936, Keith and his wife Bonnie constructed a home on an acre of land at the southwest corner of the family's holdings (now 1410 Worden Avenue). Robert and his wife Annie moved to Washington where Robert communicated regularly with his father on the workings of the farm. Only William (Bill) stayed on, sharing the land and the work with his parents until their death in 1956 and continuing on alone until his own death in 1995. In these last decades, farm production appears to have slowed considerably, limited to minor goat and home-consumption vegetable production, with off-site wage labor secured as needed at the Missoula stockyards. In 1992, Bill Randolph placed a conservation easement on the family's land, "to preserve and protect in perpetuity and to enhance and restore the open space, historic and natural features and values of the property."

Site Development

Randolph family members report that all buildings currently on site were on-site at the time of Will and Emma's 1907 purchase of the west half of the Moon's 160-acre claim. These buildings were modified, expanded, and repaired throughout the following decades.

By 1909, poultry and egg production constituted a primary economic activity and inspired the construction of the first of the shed-roof additions on the barn, which served as a chicken coop and brooder house.¹⁷ On March 7, 1909 William Randolph noted in his ledger purchase of 5 dozen Plymouth Rock eggs, with another 3 dozen to follow on March 14th, and another 8 dozen on April 8th. An incubator and two roosters completed the spring investment. In July, Randolph invested in corn, cornmeal, bran, and wheat to feed the growing flock. By fall, Randolph realized profit from his investment, selling 37 dozen eggs at 40 cents per dozen on August 8th, one of many fall egg transactions, and 679

¹³ See, for example, Forrest and Flossie Galland-Poe, *Born in Rattlesnake Canyon* (Missoula: Birch Creek Press, 1992).

¹⁴ General Land Office Tract Book Indices, Sections 7-12, T13N R19W. On file with the Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana.

¹⁵ General Land Office Tract Book Indices, Section 10, T13N R19W. On file with the Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana.

¹⁶ The Randolphs paid only \$10 for the east 80 acres, suggesting that title, if not use, may have been informally conferred with the initial 1907 land purchase.

¹⁷ Shirley Verworn, daughter of Keith Randolph, interviewed by Caitlin DeSilvey, Hill and Homestead Coalition, 2000.

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chickens on September 14. An additional chicken house was located immediately contiguous to the alfalfa fields. This chicken house retains nesting "drawers," each about five feet long, containing five or so partitioned nesting areas and set on crude runners under a broad shelf. The egg-collector pulled on leather handles to access the eggs. In conformity with standard design, the chicken house faced south, providing sun and warmth for the young chicks. Level ground to the front, presumably fenced, would have provided a scratching and feeding yard; the flock may also have foraged in the adjacent alfalfa fields where "vigorous hens [could] be produced cheaper and with less labor than where birds have to be confined."¹⁸ It is likely that a large wood-frame shed-roof house at the top of a small rise also housed the chicken and brooder poultry operation. By the mid 1930s, this second-generation house had been converted to a simple residence for Keith Randolph and his new wife Bonnie (it would later be remodeled to a more-substantial residence for Will and Emma).

Both pork and dairy products appear to have represented only a minor cash crop during the early years, although they would have significantly contributed to the family's self-sufficiency. Dairy sales, in 1909, for example, were limited to an occasional sale of butter (5 pounds, for example, on June 5th) and buttermilk (2 gallons on June 22nd).

The addition of 80 acres of pasture in 1912 (final purchase of the original Moon homestead), possibly in tandem with construction of the second shed-roof addition to the barn, marked an increased investment in dairy cattle. A 1920 livestock appraisal identifies 11 Holstein Milk Cows, producing sufficient milk and cream for sale to the Community Creamery on Spruce Street.¹⁹

Pork production peaked in the 1920s and 1930s, when hogs foraged in and near the orchard and were sheltered in low open sheds running along the west edge of the orchard. Most were sold at auction or to Daily's Meats.²⁰

Beef cattle also constituted a substantial part of the family's labor expenditure and income. The 1920 stock inventory identified 3 Holstein calves; 2 yearling steers; a 4-year old steer; and 3 yearling Holstein heifers. During the difficult winter of 1937, William's son Robert wrote from Pullman, Washington, "how is the feed holding out? I have wondered a good many times during the bad weather in the past few weeks just how conditions are over there. I don't have any idea how many head you are wintering or how much feed you had to start with. Hope it hasn't been too tough."²¹ In 1945, Emma's sister Maud wrote "I hope William got a little rest after selling the cows and you got away from washing cream buckets for a while."²²

Cattle production required the full-extent of homestead lands, with outlying areas providing summer pasture, in-lying fields planted to winter feed, and the building complex developed to include an enlarged barn, corrals, and loading chutes. By the 1910s, the two contiguous fields extending up-slope along the ravine, to the ridge line, and the large bench west of the root cellar (later planted to truck produce) were planted to wheat and alfalfa, for use as winter feed.

¹⁸ H. E. Cushman, "From Brooder House to Laying House or Management of Growing Pullets (Bozeman: Montana Extension Service, June 1930 [Circular No. 11]), no page; M. M. Johnson, "Two Acres of Hens; The Truth About Poultry Raising," no date, Bill Randolph collection, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula; Historic photograph of homestead, n.d. (ca. 1915), North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

¹⁹ Mortgage, W.H. Randolph to the Western Montana National Bank of Missoula, Montana February 18, 1920 Shirley Verworn, daughter of Keith Randolph, interviewed by Caitlin DeSilvey, Hill and Homestead Coalition, 1999.

²⁰ Shirley Verworn, daughter of Keith Randolph, interviewed by Caitlin DeSilvey, Hill and Homestead Coalition, 2000.

²¹ R. E. Randolph to Dad [William Randolph], February 21, 1937, correspondence file, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

²² Maud to Emma [Randolph] and family, October 9, 1945, correspondence file, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

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The close inter-relationship between summer range, winter feed and size of the beef herd was demonstrated in June 1945 when a range fire burned the maturing alfalfa in the fields and destroyed the Randolphs' granary.²³ Most significantly, outlying pasture lands were scorched and would provide no feed for the bulk of the summer; Emma's sister Maud commiserated, "you got a good price for the cows and too bad you didn't let them all go, now that your pasture is burned." Despite the extent of the loss, all concerned breathed a collective sigh of relief that the hay stack had been spared.

Through the 1950s, and the end of intensive site cultivation, horses powered all farm equipment. The family never owned a tractor. In 1920 the horses included two 1350 pound geldings, charged with powering a Ven Brunt seeder, a Flying Dutchman two-way plow, a disk harrow, two harrows, a John Deere plow, a grain binder, and a "3 ½ Mitchel wagon – implements for cultivation, haying, and haulage."²⁴ The disk harrow, grain binder, blade plow, and other implements remain on site, rusted, deteriorated and often-times incorporated in the twisting and overgrown vegetation of the shelter belt.

This horse-powered machinery is suggestive not only of an earlier agricultural era but also of the labor entailed in intensive cultivation.²⁵ Summer tillage of the orchard, garden, and alfalfa fields facilitated weed control, moisture retention, and incorporation of organic fertilizers (generally manure spread on fallow fields at the onset of winter). At the Randolph Ranch, much of this machinery was handmade, a common practice according to the Montana Extension Service which reported in 1926 that "many farmers . . . cannot afford a manufactured machine. To such men the cheaper and possibly less efficient homemade types make a strong appeal."²⁶

Sale of truck produce,²⁷ first cultivated in a large garden located at the foot of the orchard, provided income through the summer months. In June, 1909 Randolph reported the sale of onions, lettuce, turnip greens, and peas, all of which would have been set in the cold and rainy days of March in order to assure a June harvest. Potatoes were added to the ledger in July, green corn in August, and beets, carrots, and cabbage by fall. Sales of roots crops continued into December of 1909. The orchards, located at the head of a ravine near a natural spring and adjacent to the barn, were planted in apples, cherries, and pears. A series of apple sales, beginning with first harvest in September and continuing through January 1910, brought in \$148.95.

Family members report that for decades these goods, along with rail-imported plums, peaches, and exotics, were delivered to Missoula markets and peddled door to door in what was known as the *Casaba Wagon*.²⁸

In company, for example, with the Hughes Farms that once lined the river near Hellgate Canyon, the Randolphs' fields stood as a reminder of the economical link and geographical proximity of urban and rural development. In an era when dependable refrigeration was a rare luxury, and long-distance freight expensive, urban dwellers relied upon what their near neighbors could raise. Within the context of this local market, small-scale production remained economically viable.

The Great Depression appears to have only slightly modified the scope and scale of production at the farm. Drought hit the northern plains in 1919; ultimately this drought would extend through the 1920s and would ironically collide with world-wide overproduction of agricultural goods (and commensurate decline in commodities prices). Drought

²³ Ione Randolph [daughter of Keith] to Grandma [Emma Randolph], July 3, 1945, correspondence file, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

²⁴ In addition, the family kept a saddle horse and, in 1920, had a yearling colt and a nine-year old gray mare, presumably the horse power behind the family buggy. Mortgage, W.H. Randolph to the Western Montana National Bank of Missoula, Montana February 18, 1920.

²⁵ Shirley Verworn interviewed by Caitlin DeSilvey, Hill and Homestead Preservation Coalition, 1999

²⁶ A. J. Ogaard, Summer Tillage Implements (Bozeman: Montana Extension Service, May 1926), p. 12.

²⁷ Intensely cultivated food crops (versus animal-feed and grain crops) "trucked" to urban distribution points and farmers' markets.

²⁸ The still site has not yet been identified.

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and the collapse of agricultural markets created a massive pool of itinerant and unemployed laborers: "persistent, unprecedentedly high unemployment was the most alarming aspect of the Great Depression."²⁹ In every nation, unemployment reached historic highs, with an estimated 30 million jobless in the leading industrial powers of the United States, Britain, and Germany. In the United States alone, unemployment increased from 3 million in 1929 to 14 million in 1933. Wage payrolls dropped by \$9 billion and farm crop values shrank by 60 percent. In 1933, public agencies' general relief case load had increased by 25 times over 1929 levels. The trend continued: in December 1934, 19,018,503 persons were receiving relief from a public agency, almost double January 1934 figures.³⁰

By 1931, Montana's agricultural economists reported the "almost utter collapse" of the feed cattle and horticulture markets and "liquidation in the poultry industry," all brought about by low purchase power of consumers.³¹ Within the Missoula Valley, Forrest Poe, who homesteaded just east of the Randolphs in the Rattlesnake drainage, remembered that

the Depression was a hard time to be a farmer. All the produce prices went down, went down hard. People lost their jobs and there wasn't much you could sell. . . . Dressed beef [sold] for three cents a pound. You couldn't make any money at beef. . . . I had to sell my dressed pork at 4 cents a pound and take a loss. . . . We didn't try to sell milk very much of the time because the price was too low [Yet] our family managed to hang on out at the ranch. We could, at least, eat out there."³²

Within this economic climate, "managing to hang on" proved a significant accomplishment. Those less dependent upon wage labor and who also owned or leased land outside the pale of the most pernicious drought-- capable of sustaining a variety of food goods -- fared the Depression with the least dislocation. Home-grown products fed the family and provided a medium of exchange in a barter economy where cash proved virtually non-existent.³³ (Economists reminded Montanans that "decreased income will require the continued use of farm-furnished goods, such as food and fuel, and of home-processed goods, such as baked and canned goods. Careful planning of cash expenditures is necessary.") In recognition of both the family's largesse and also the relative abundance of the family farm, Keith Randolph's daughter Shirley Verworn remembered that "during the Depression it was well known that the Randolph Ranch always had room and something to eat for people in need."³⁴ The coal mine, never developed as a commercial enterprise yet an important source of fuel, was also made available to neighbors. In reflection of the near-complete collapse of a cash economy, the Randolphs would also have traded produce, eggs, meat, and coal for shoes, medical services, and dry-goods.³⁵

By the 1940s, as American industry expanded in response to the federal Lend-Lease program, manufacturing arms for the European War, and in response to Depression-era programs designed to correct imbalance in agricultural production and demand, the Depression eased. In 1942, with American entrance into the war, beef and dairy prices rose appreciably as American farmers fed Allied troops. At the Randolph Ranch, however, these years of prosperity corresponded with Keith and Robert's departure and with Emma and Will's old age. By the 1950s, family members report that alfalfa production was discontinued and by the 1960s Bill Randolph secured wage labor at the stockyards in town. Limited cultivation (Randolph "did some farming") continued to be realized with horse-drawn machinery. Despite the

²⁹ John Garraty, *The Great Depression. An Inquiry into the Causes, Course, and Consequences of the Worldwide Depression of the Nineteen-Thirties, as Seen by Contemporaries and in the Light of History* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1986), p. 100.

³⁰ Garraty, *The Great Depression*, passim; Frank Freidel, ed., *The New Deal and the American People* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1964), pp. 13,35.

³¹ Paul Carpenter, *The Montana Agricultural Outlook* (Bozeman: Montana Extension Service, June 1, 1931 [Circular No. 19], and June 29, 1931 [Circular No. 21]), no page.

³² Galland-Poe, *Born in Rattlesnake Canyon*, p. 68.

³³ W. H. Lamphere, *The Montana Agricultural Outlook for 1937* (Bozeman: Montana Extension Service, 1937), no page.

³⁴ Shirley Verworn, daughter of Keith Randolph, interviewed by Caitlin DeSilvey, Hill and Homestead Coalition, 1999

³⁵ Galland-Poe, *Born in Rattlesnake Canyon*, p. 68.

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Depression-era efforts of the Rural Electrification Administration, the family chose not to assume the increased costs associated with line construction and power consumption and remained outside the power grid until 1956.

Beyond the boundaries of the Randolph Ranch, Montana agricultural patterns proceeded along a markedly different course. By the late 1930s/early 1940s, tractor and motor-truck ownership had increased significantly.³⁶ Rural electrification in the regions contiguous to urban centers was largely realized by the end of the 1930s. Improved transportation – primarily the advent of truck haulage and refrigerated cars – decreased the importance of local production to a local market; accordingly, farm size increased and diversification decreased, as farmers focused on production of single crops for a specialized regional or national market. Thus by ca. 1945, the Randolph Ranch stood as an anomaly rather than an accurate representative of Montana farm patterns. The period of significance for the homestead extends from initial settlement in 1889 until 1945, the years during which the property – as demanded by National Register criterion A – was representative of events "that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

³⁶ Gilbert C. Fite, "The Transformation of South Dakota Agriculture: the Effects of Mechanization," *South Dakota History*, 19 (3), 1989, p. 282.

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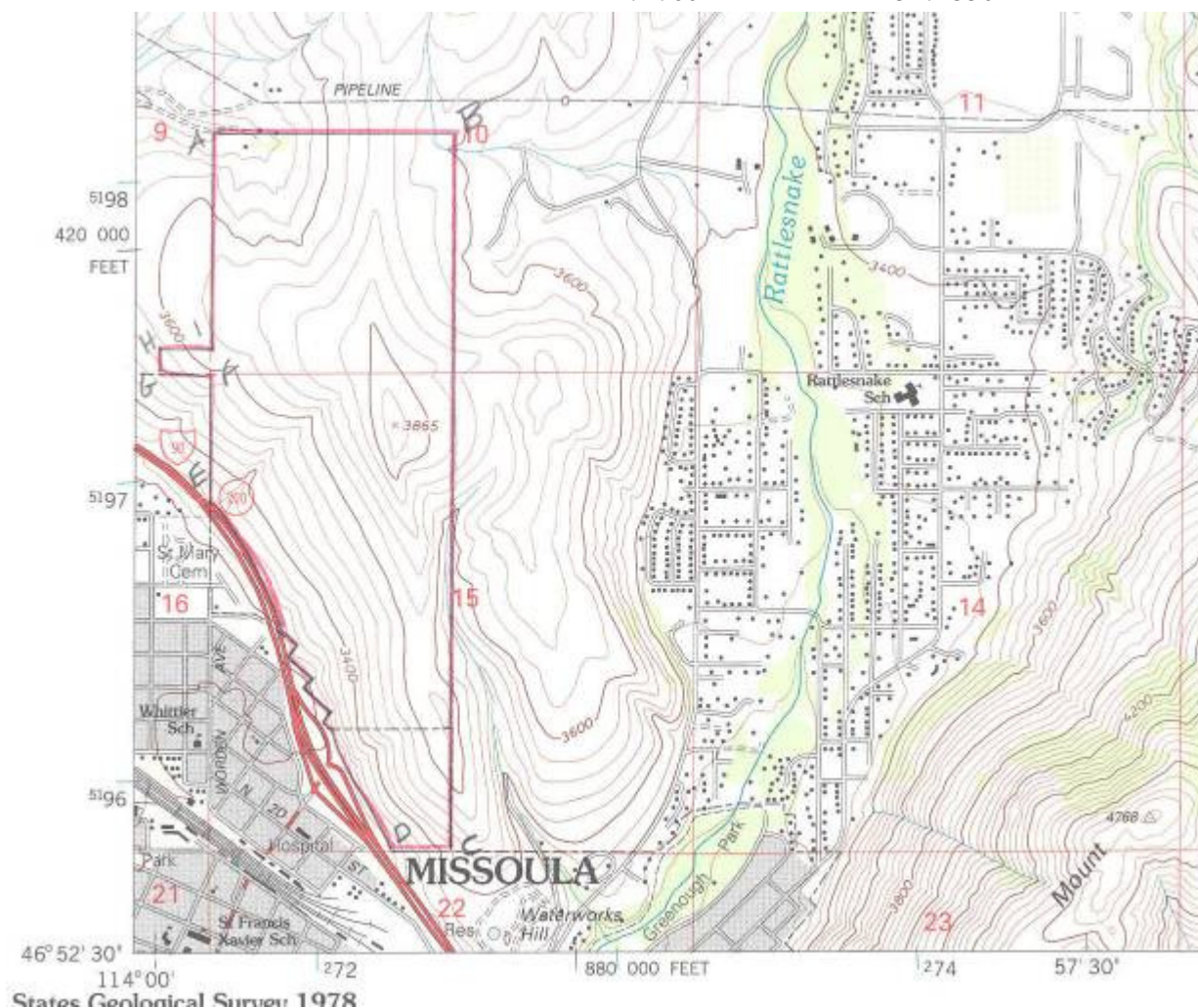
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UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
A 12	271750	5198100
B 12	272550	5198100
C 12	272450	5195750
D 12	272300	5195750
E 12	271700	5196900
F 12	271760	5197350
G 12	271550	5197350
H 12	271550	5197450
I 12	271760	5271550



Northeast Missoula Quadrangle detail, 7.5 minute topographic map showing National Register boundary and UTM points for Moon-Randolph Homestead.

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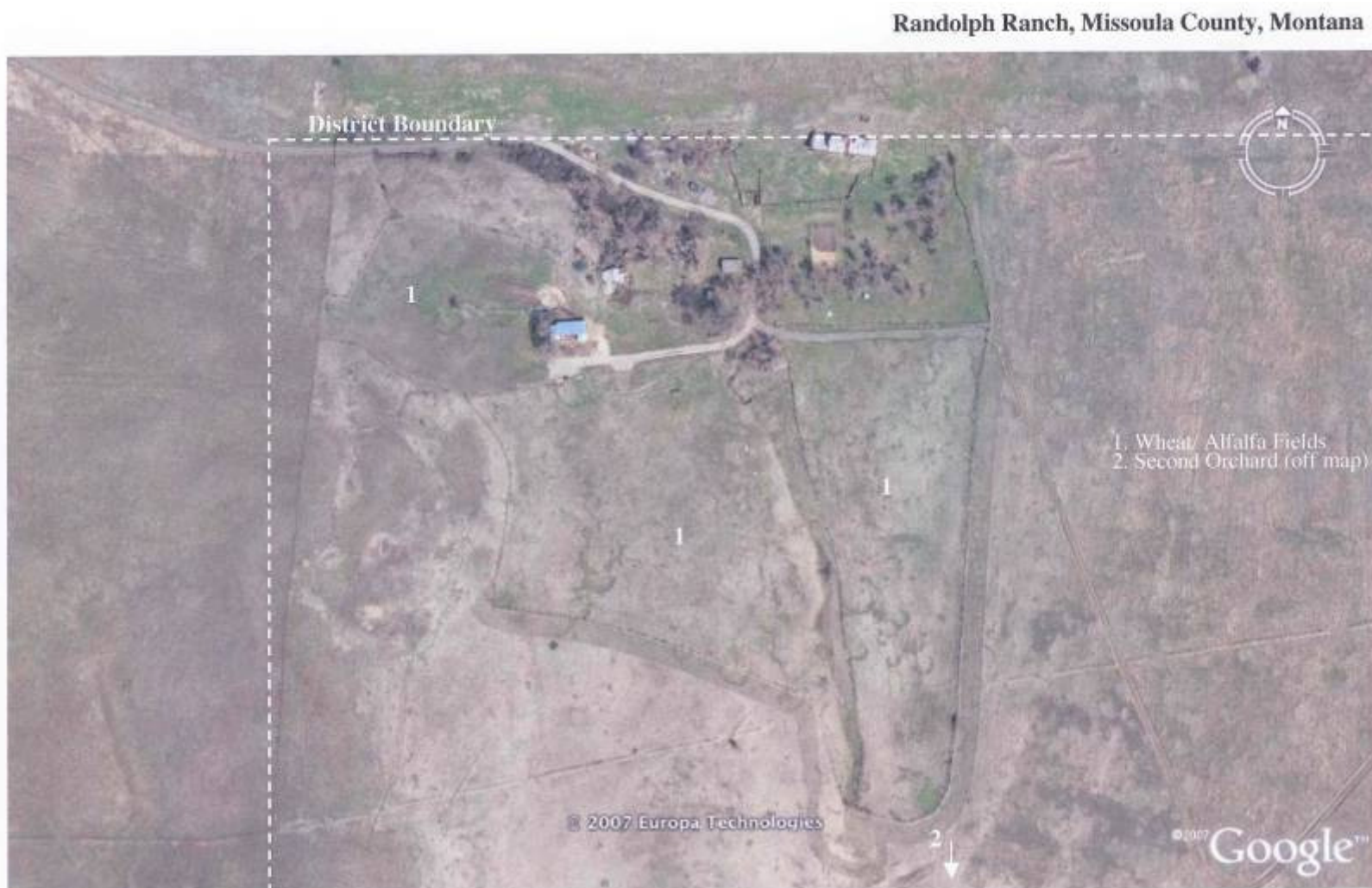
Aerial view of Moon-Randolph Homestead Historic District.

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Detail of northeast portion of district, showing building cluster and wheat/alfalfa fields.

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Detail of Moon-Randolph Homestead building cluster.

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Nr Photo #2 – “Tin Shed” view from north.



NR Photo #3 – Winch Shed, view from south.

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NR Photo #4 – Coal mine, view from west.



NR Photo #6 – Barn – view from southwest.

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NR Photo #7 – Ranch Cluster – view from northeast of (L to R) Orchard, Garden Site, Chicken House, 1946 residence, Harness shed, and “Tin Shed”.



NR Photo #8 – Fences, orchard gate, view from north.

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NR Photo #10 – Orchard, view from southeast.



NR Photo #13 – Hog shed in orchard, view from southeast.

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NR Photo 16 – Corral system, view from south.



NR Photo #17 – Moon Claim Cabin, view from northeast.

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NR Photo #19 – Moon Claim Cabin, view from southwest.



NR Photo #20 – Milk House, view from northeast.

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NR Photo #22 – Milk House and Well, View from east.



NR Photo #27 – Hog Shed, view from southeast.

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NR Photo #30 – Harness Shed, view from northwest.



NR Photo #33 – Main House, view from southwest.

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NR Photo #34 – Root Cellar, view from east.



NR Photo #35 – Main House, view from northwest.

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NR Photo 36 – Outhouse, view from southwest.

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NR Photo #39 – Chicken and Goat Yard, view from west.



NR Photo #41 – 1946 Residence, view from southeast.

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NR Photo #43 – Wheat/Alfalfa Field, view from south of on the bench west of 1946 Residence.



NR Photo #44 – Ranch Cluster, view from southwest. 1946 Residence in foreground, Chicken House and Goat Shed on the right, Winch Shed on left, Barn in background.

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NR Photo #45 – Wheat/Alfalfa Fields, view from the west of fields to the south of the ranch cluster.



NR Photo #47- Well (1889), detail view.

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NR Photo # 48 – Irrigation Ditch, view from east.

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NR Photo #50 - Irrigation pipes, view from south.

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NR Photo #51 – Second orchard, view from north.

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NR Photo #53 – Historic Photo (1920) view from west.